



## **Lower Paxton Township Emergency Management Agency**

425 Prince Street, Harrisburg, PA 17109

Office: (717) 657-5656

### **PRESS RELEASE**

#### **DECLARATION of a SNOW (DISASTER) EMERGENCY**

Snow and other severe weather conditions are expected in Lower Paxton Township and may reach such proportions that they threaten life and property. Weather forecasts indicate that conditions may worsen.

Emergency management measures are required to reduce the severity of this disaster to protect the health, safety, and welfare of affected residents and businesses in Lower Paxton Township.

The Manager of Lower Paxton Township, pursuant to the provisions of the Pennsylvania Emergency Services Code and the Codified Ordinances of the Township, has declared a Snow Disaster Emergency in Lower Paxton. As part of this emergency, the Township requests that residents limit the parking of vehicles on and along the roadways of the Township, and that citizens limit their travel to only essential or emergency trips.

By this disaster Declaration, Township officials are authorized to act as necessary to meet this current emergency, by employment of temporary workers, rental of equipment, and purchase of supplies and materials.

This Declaration shall take effect at 1700 hours, Friday, January 22, 2016, and remain in effect until rescinded.

George Wolfe,  
Township Manager

**LOWER PAXTON TOWNSHIP  
DECLARATION OF DISASTER EMERGENCY  
Declaration 16-01**

**WHEREAS**, on or about Friday, January 22, 2016, a severe snow storm has caused or threatens to cause injury, damage, and suffering to the persons and property of Lower Paxton Township; and

**WHEREAS**, the severe snow storm has endangered or may endanger the health, safety and welfare of a substantial number of persons residing in or traveling through Lower Paxton Township, and threatens to create problems greater in scope than Lower Paxton Township may be able to resolve; and

**WHEREAS**, emergency management measures are required to reduce the severity of this emergency and to protect the health, safety and welfare of affected residents in Lower Paxton Township;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, the undersigned Manager of Lower Paxton Township, pursuant to the provisions of Section 7501 of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Services Code, (35 PA C.S., Section 7501), as amended, and Chapter 23, Section 6, paragraph 17, of the Codified Ordinances of Lower Paxton Township do hereby declare the existence of a disaster emergency in Lower Paxton Township; and

**FURTHER**, I direct the Lower Paxton Township Emergency Management Coordinator to coordinate the activities of the emergency response, to take all appropriate action needed to alleviate the effects of this disaster emergency, to aid in the restoration of essential public services, and to take any other emergency response action deemed necessary to respond to this emergency; and

**STILL FURTHER**, I authorize officials of Lower Paxton Township to act as necessary to meet the current exigencies of this emergency, namely: by the employment of temporary workers, by the rental of equipment, by the purchase of supplies and materials, and by entering into such contracts and agreements for the performance of public work as may be required to meet the emergency, all without regard to those time-consuming procedures and formalities normally prescribed by law, mandatory constitutional requirements excepted.

This Declaration shall take effect at 1700 hours on January 22, 2016, and shall remain in effect until duly terminated by order of the Township Manager.

**LOWER PAXTON TOWNSHIP**

Date: January 22, 2016

\_\_\_\_\_  
George Wolfe, Township Manager

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
County of Dauphin

On this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of January, 2016, before me, George Wolfe, Township Manager, Lower Paxton Township, personally appeared and swore that the above information was true and correct. In witness whereof, I hereunto set my hand and official seals.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Maureen Heberle, Notary Public

NOTARIAL SEAL

## **Lower Paxton Township Winter Road Maintenance Policies**

The responsibility for providing snow and ice control for Lower Paxton Township's infrastructure, roadway network, and public building facilities rests with the Public Works Department.

Snow and ice control on roadway surfaces is considered emergency work that may occur at any time during the day or night. The potential hazards to the motoring public and high incidence of overtime related to these types of events dictate careful planning and preparation prior to the onset of inclement weather. The planning process varies based upon the conditions encountered during each weather event. The snowfall accumulation rate, moisture content, temperature, time of day, wind direction and velocity are all factors that can create a unique aspect for each weather event. A plowing operation is initiated if a snow accumulation of two (2) inches or greater exists. The application of salt and anti-skid materials shall be implemented at the request of emergency personnel or the Public Works Director.

### **GOAL and OBJECTIVE**

The goal of the Public Works Department and supporting staff is to provide safe roadways and access to Lower Paxton Township facilities open to the public.

In an effort to achieve that goal the following guidelines shall be utilized:

**Priority I** - Primary Routes shall be cleared to bare pavement and maintained as volume and time permits.

**Priority II** - Secondary streets cleared to a bare lane on either side of the centerline within twelve (12) hours of the end of the weather event. In the absence of a centerline, a clear lane equivalent to at least one and one half (1 ½) vehicle widths.

**Priority III** - Lower Paxton Township Buildings open to the public within eighteen (18) hours of the end of the weather event.

**Priority IV** - Alleys/ Cul-de-sacs within twenty-four (24) hours of the end of the weather event, based upon the criteria as defined in Lower Paxton Township Ordinance 196-31.

The clearing of sidewalks shall remain the duty of the property owner or occupier as defined in Lower Paxton Township Ordinance 196-30.

## **OPERATIONS and STAFFING**

The magnitude and duration of the weather event will dictate staffing levels for each unique event. Public Works and Sewer Authority employees performing weather related roadway clearing shall not work more than eleven (11) consecutive hours in a Commercial Motor Vehicle. Non- CDL employees shall not work more than fourteen (14) consecutive hours. Lower Paxton Township employees may return to assist in weather related pavement clearing after a minimum of four (4) consecutive hours of unpaid leave. Employees will rotate on a continuous basis to maintain a consistent effort throughout the duration of the event.

In the event that a Snow Emergency is declared by the Township Manager and/or the Governor of Pennsylvania additional staffing and equipment may be required. An emergency declaration affords Management the ability to deviate from established guidelines to include extending consecutive work hours, extending suggested pavement clearing goals and hiring private contractors to assist in pavement clearing related to a weather event. The implementation of CMV emergency status affords employees extended service hours to clear publicly traveled portions of the roadways. Emergency Commercial Motor Vehicle driving time limits shall not exceed twenty (20) hours of operation of a commercial motor vehicle. Employees shall meet with a supervisor after each eight (8) consecutive hours of operations of a CMV. The operator and supervisor will conduct an inspection of the CMV, review status of work performed and evaluate ability to continue CMV operation. The CMV operator shall not exceed twenty (20) hours of operation. Lower Paxton Township employees may return to assist in weather related pavement clearing after a minimum of eight (8) consecutive hours of unpaid leave.

## **DUTY and RESPONSIBILITY**

The employees of Lower Paxton Township are dedicated to effectively and efficiently clearing the pavement surfaces during weather events. Under no circumstances will Township employees be allowed to use Township equipment to perform any snow removal or ice control operation on any private property. In the event that private property is damaged during the remediation of a weather event, the property owner is required to notify the Public Works Director or his/her designee. An incident report will be generated and investigated in accordance with Lower Paxton Township Resolution 08-53 adopted December 16, 2008.